

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 080347

EXDIS; ATHENS ALSO FOR AMB CRAWFORD AND LEDSKY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR

SUBJECT: GREEK AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH CLARK CLIFFORD

1. GREEK AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS, AT HIS REQUEST, MET
APRIL 7 WITH THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, CLARK
CLIFFORD.

2. ALEXANDRAKIS OPENED MEETING ALONG VERY SIMILAR LINES TO
HIS APRIL 5 MEETING WITH COUNSELOR-DESIGNATE NIMETZ (STATE
76180). ALEXANDRAKIS SAID GOG WAS DISAPPOINTED IN TURKISH
CYPRIOT POSITION IN VIENNA CYPRUS TALKS. GREEK CYPRIOTS
HAD CONFORMED TO FEBRUARY 12 MAKARIOS-DENKTASH GUIDELINES,
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BUT IN GOG VIEW, TURKISH CYPRIOT CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSAL
DID NOT REPRESENT A FEDERAL SYSTEM AND SOME OF ONAN'S COM-
MENTS ABOUT NEED FOR "HINTERLAND" AND A DEFENSIBLE BORDER
WERE "OMINOUS". ALEXANDRAKIS EXPRESSED HOPE THAT US
ASSESSMENT OF VIENNA RESULTS WOULD BE "OBJECTIVE" AND WOULD
THUS ENCOURAGE "CONSTRUCTIVE ELEMENTS" WHO ARE SEEKING
SATISFACTORY CYPRUS SOLUTION.

3. IN RESPONSE, CLIFFORD SAID THAT U.S. WHILE DISAPPOINTED IN VIENNA RESULTS IS NOT DISCOURAGED. WE WOULD HAVE HOPED FOR MORE PROGRESS, BUT WE THINK IT VITAL THAT PARTIES CONTINUE IN A PROCESS OF NEGOTIATION.

4. AS POSITIVE VIENNA ELEMENTS, CLIFFORD NOTED THAT TWO DOCUMENTS HAD BEEN TABLED AND THAT A DEGREE OF SERIOUS DISCUSSION HAD TAKEN PLACE. THE U.S. DID NOT THINK IT WISE AT THIS STAGE TO ATTEMPT TO EVALUATE THE ACTIONS OR PROPOSALS OF EITHER PARTY. WE HOPE WE CAN RETAIN INFLUENCE WITH BOTH SIDES AND STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THEM AS WELL AS WITH GOG AND GOT. THE TURKISH CYPRIOT CONSTITUTIONAL PAPER WAS DISAPPOINTING IN THAT WE HAD HOPED IT WOULD BE MORE FORTHCOMING. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GREEK CYPRIOT MAP ALSO SEEMED UNREALISTIC AND NOT EXACTLY WHAT WE HAD EXPECTED. WE RECOGNIZE THAT BOTH REPRESENTED FIRST BARGAINING POSITIONS AND PROBABLY THUS WERE ALL THAT COULD BE EXPECTED. WE THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, THAT FOR FIRST TIME SPECIFIC PROPOSALS WERE ACTUALLY PU- FORWARD.

5. CLIFFORD SAID THAT IN HIS VIEW IF THE CYPRUS QUESTION IS LEFT ONLY TO THE GREEK CYPRIOT AND TURKISH CYPRIOT NEGOTIATORS A SOLUTION WILL NEVER BE REACHED. PROGRESS IS POSSIBLE ONLY IF THE GOVERNMENTS OF BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY LEND THEIR GOOD OFFICES TO THE SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION. CLIFFORD NOTED THAT WE WERE AWARE THAT FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS HAD MADE A HELPFUL SUGGESTION DURING THE CONFIDENTIAL

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NEGOTIATIONS AND THIS CONTRIBUTION WAS MOST APPRECIATED IN WASHINGTON (STATE 75254; ATHENS 3026).

6. CLIFFORD SAID WE REALIZE THAT GIVEN THE JUNE 5 ELECTIONS IN TURKEY AND THE NSP'S POSITION IN THE CURRENT COALITION NOT MUCH SUBSTANTIVE ADVANCE CAN BE EXPECTED WHEN TALKS RESUME IN NICOSIA, BUT WE HOPE SOME LIMITED PROGRESS WOULD BE POSSIBLE. CLIFFORD NOTED HIS WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER SECOND TRIP TO AREA, BUT HE ASSUMED THAT BEST TIME WOULD BE NOT BEFORE TURKISH ELECTIONS. CLIFFORD EXPRESSED VIEW THAT IF FOLLOWING TURKISH ELECTIONS REASONABLE SETTLEMENT COULD NOT BE ACHIEVED THIS WOULD INDEED BE MOST UNFORTUNATE. HE NOTED THAT TURKISH FORCE OF 28,000 ON CYPRUS IS EXPENSIVE TO MAINTAIN AND THAT CYPRUS PROBLEM PLACES BURDEN ON TURKEY'S RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. HE NOTED THAT SETTLEMENT WOULD BRING BENEFITS FOR ECONOMY AND PEOPLE IN BOTH COMMUNITIES ON CYPRUS. U.S. INTEREST IN CYPRUS SETTLEMENT COULD NOT, HOWEVER, CONTINUE INDEFINITELY. PARTIES THEMSELVES ULTIMATELY

MUST DECIDE AND U.S. WOULD NOT TRY TO SUBSTITUTE ITS JUDGMENT BUT WE WERE PREPARED, IF ASKED, AT APPROPRIATE TIME TO PUT FORWARD IDEAS OR RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH WOULD HELP ADVANCE A FINAL SETTLEMENT.

7. IN SUM, CLIFFORD NOTED THAT MORE PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE AT THIS VIENNA ROUND THAN AT ANY PREVIOUS MEETING;

TALKS DID NOT BREAK UP; AND THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION OF BOTH PROPOSALS. CLIFFORD SAID HE HAD NO ILLUSIONS THAT THE ANIMOSITY AND BITTERNESS WHICH HAVE CHARACTERIZED THE CYPRUS PROBLEM COULD BE OVERCOME IN A FEW WEEKS OR MONTHS, BUT HE HOPED THAT PERHAPS IN JULY/AUGUST IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO MOVE AHEAD QUICKLY. U.S. WOULD WELCOME SUGGESTIONS FROM GOG AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES ON WHAT ELSE WE COULD USEFULLY DO.

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8. CLIFFORD SAID THAT HE HAD VERY MUCH IN MIND HIS DISCUSSION RE AEGEAN ISSUES WITH PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS. A STUDY WAS PROCEEDING IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO SEE IF THERE WERE SUGGESTIONS WE MIGHT OFFER IF DESIRED BY GREECE AND/OR TURKEY.

9. IN RESPONSE TO ALEXANDRAKIS QUESTION, CLIFFORD CONFIRMED THAT U.S. VIEWS RE VIENNA DISCUSSIONS HAD ALSO BEEN CONVEYED TO GOT AND TO CYPRIOT AMBASSADOR DIMITRIOU (STATE 76271). ALEXANDRAKIS AGREED THAT POSSIBILITIES FOR PROGRESS IN NEXT FEW WEEKS WERE LIMITED. HE SAID IT WAS GENERALLY KNOWN THAT GREEK CYPRIOTS WERE PREPARED TO GO FURTHER THAN 20 PERCENT SHOWN ON INITIAL MAP. CLIFFORD SAID HE ASSUMED TURKISH CYPRIOTS AT SOME POINT WERE ALSO PREPARED TO GO FURTHER THAN THEIR INITIAL CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSAL. HE ALSO EXPRESSED HOPE FOR GREATER DEGREE OF CONFIDENTIALITY PARTICULARLY DURING THIS SENSITIVE PERIOD PRIOR TO TURKISH ELECTIONS.

10. ALEXANDRAKIS EXPRESSED CONTINUING GREEK CONFIDENCE IN CLIFFORD'S ROLE AND REAFFIRMED THAT GOG CONTINUES TO BELIEVE IN NEED FOR CYPRUS SOLUTION. CLIFFORD SAID THERE WAS NO LESSENING OF U.S. INTEREST OR DETERMINATION TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO HELP FIND A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT.
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